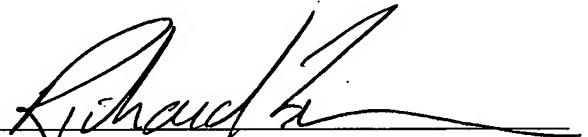


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Richard Zimmermann

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

the amendments to the specification section begins on page 2 of this paper;

the amendments to the claims section begins on page 13 of this paper;

the amendments to the abstract section begins on page 20 of this paper; and

the remarks section begins on page 21 of this paper.